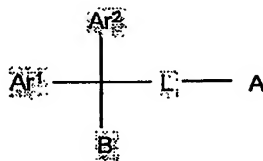


CLAIMS

1. A diaryl methyl derivative of Formula I



(I)

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or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof, wherein,

Ar¹ and Ar², independently of one another, represent an aromatic
 10 carbocyclic or heterocyclic monocyclic group, which aromatic carbocyclic or
 heterocyclic monocyclic group is optionally substituted one or more times with
 substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl,
 haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro;

15 L is absent (i.e. represents a single bond) or represents a linker selected
 from the group consisting of -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH(CH₃)-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-,
 -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -S-, -S-CH₂-, -S-CH₂CH₂-, -S-CH(CH₃)-, -S-CH₂CH₂CH₂-,
 -S-CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -NH-, -NH-CH₂-, -NH-CH₂CH₂-, -NH-CH(CH₃)-, -NH-CH₂CH₂CH₂-
 and -NH-CH₂CH(CH₃)-; and

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A and B, independently of one another, represent

-CN; -COOR', -CONR'R'', -C(=NOR')R'' or -C(=NOR')NR''R''', wherein R',
 R'' and R''', independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl;

pyridinyl, phenyl, -SO₂-phenyl or -O-SO₂-phenyl, which phenyl group may
 25 optionally be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group
 consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro; or

A represents -CN; -COOR', -CONR'R'', -C(=NOR')R'' or -C(=NOR')NR''R''',
 wherein R', R'' and R''', independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl;
 30 pyridinyl, -SO₂-phenyl or -O-SO₂-phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be
 substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro; and

B represents -CN, -COOR' or -CONR'R'', wherein R' and R'', independently
 of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; a phenyl group, which phenyl group is
 optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy,
 35 cyano and/or nitro; or a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl group is optionally substituted
 one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein

L represents a linker selected from the group consisting of $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CH}_2-$ and $-\text{S}-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$.

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3. The compound of either one of claims 1-2, wherein

A and B, independently of one another, represent

$-\text{CN}$; $-\text{COOR}'$, $-\text{CONR}'\text{R}''$, $-\text{C}(=\text{NOR}')\text{R}''$ or $-\text{C}(=\text{NOR}')\text{NR}''\text{R}'''$, wherein R' , R'' and R''' , independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl;

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pyridinyl, phenyl, $-\text{SO}_2$ -phenyl or $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2$ -phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be substituted one or more times with substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro.

4. The compound of either one of claims 1-2, wherein

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A represents $-\text{CN}$; $-\text{COOR}'$, $-\text{CONR}'\text{R}''$, $-\text{C}(=\text{NOR}')\text{R}''$ or $-\text{C}(=\text{NOR}')\text{NR}''\text{R}'''$, wherein R' , R'' and R''' , independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; pyridinyl, $-\text{SO}_2$ -phenyl or $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2$ -phenyl, which phenyl group may optionally be substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and nitro; and

B represents $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{COOR}'$ or $-\text{CONR}'\text{R}''$, wherein R' and R'' , independently of one another, represent hydrogen or alkyl; a phenyl group, which phenyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro; or a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl group is optionally substituted one or two times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, cyano and/or nitro.

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5. The compound of claim 4, wherein

A represents $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOCH}_3$, $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CONH}_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{NOH})\text{NH}_2$, pyridinyl or $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2$ -phenyl, which phenyl group is substituted with alkyl or halo, haloalkyl, cyano or nitro; and

B represents $-\text{CONH}_2$, $-\text{CN}$, or a phenyl group substituted with fluoro.

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6. The compound of claim 5, wherein

A represents $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{COOCH}_3$, $-\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CONH}_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{NOH})\text{NH}_2$;

and

B represents $-\text{CONH}_2$, $-\text{CN}$.

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7. The compound of claim 5, wherein

A represents pyridin-2-yl, pyridin-3-yl, pyridin-4-yl or $-\text{O}-\text{SO}_2$ -phenyl, which phenyl group is substituted with methyl or ethyl; and

B represents $-\text{CN}$.

8. The compound of any one of claims 1-7, wherein
Ar¹ and Ar², independently of one another, represent
a phenyl group, which phenyl group is substituted one or two times with
5 alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro; or
a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl group is optionally substituted one or two
times with alkyl, alkoxy, halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein
10 both of Ar¹ and Ar² represent a phenyl group, which phenyl groups,
independently of one another, are substituted one or two times with halo, haloalkyl,
cyano and/or nitro; or
both of Ar¹ and Ar² represent a pyridinyl group, which pyridinyl groups,
independently of one another, are optionally substituted one or two times with halo,
15 haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein
both of Ar¹ and Ar² represent a halo-substituted phenyl group.

20 11. The compound of any one of claims 8-10, wherein
L represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -S-, -S-CH₂- or
-S-CH(CH₃)-

12. The compound of any one of claims 8-10, wherein
25 A represents -COOH, -COOCH₃, -COOCH₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -C(=NOH)NH₂;
and
B represents -CONH₂, -CN.

13. The compound of claim 10, which is
30 2,2-Bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-succinamide;
3-Cyano-3,3-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-propionic acid;
p-Toluenesulfonic acid 2-cyano-2,2-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl ester;
Ethyl 4-cyano-4,4-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl) butyrate; or
2-[(2-Fluoro-phenyl)-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-methanesulfanyl]-*N*-hydroxy
35 acetamidine;
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

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14. The compound of claim 9, wherein both of Ar¹ and Ar² represent a phenyl group, which phenyl groups, independently of one another, are substituted one or two times with halo, haloalkyl, cyano and/or nitro.

5 15. The compound of claim 14, wherein
L represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -S-, -S-CH₂- or -S-CH(CH₃)-

10 16. The compound of either one of claims 14-15, wherein
A represents pyridinyl, in particular pyridin-2-yl, pyridin-3-yl or pyridin-4-yl;
and
B represents -CONH₂, -CN.

15 17. The compound of claim 14, which is
2-(4-Fluoro-phenyl)-2-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-3-pyridin-2-yl-
propionitrile;
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

20 18. The compound of claim 9, wherein both of Ar¹ and Ar² represent a
pyridinyl, in particular a pyridin-2-yl, a pyridin-3-yl or a pyridin-4-yl group.

25 19. The compound of claim 18, wherein
L represents -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH(CH₃)-, -S-, -S-CH₂- or -S-CH(CH₃)-

30 20. The compound of either one of claims 18-19, wherein
A represents -COOH, -COOCH₃, -COOCH₂CH₃, -CONH₂, -C(=NOH)NH₂;
and
B represents -CONH₂, -CN.

35 21. The compound of claim 18, which is
Methyl 4-cyano-4,4-bis-(pyridin-2-yl) butyrate; or
Methyl 4-cyano-2-methyl-4,4-bis-(pyridin-2-yl) butyrate;
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1-21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof.

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23. Use of a compound of any one of claims 1-21, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable addition salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to modulation of SK_{Ca} and/or IK_{Ca} channels.

24. The use according to claim 23, which disease, disorder or condition relates to reduction or inhibition of undesired immune-regulatory actions, including graft vs. host syndrome, transplant rejection, or transplant rejection.

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25. The use according to claim 23, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition, which further comprises a pharmaceutically effective amount of a conventional immune suppressing agent.

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26. The use according to claim 25, wherein the conventional immune-suppressing agent is Amphotericin, Busulphan, Co-trimoxazole, Chlorambucil, colony stimulating factors, corticosteroids, Cyclophosphamide, Fluconazole, folinic acid, Ganciclovir, antilymphocyte immunoglobulins, normal immunoglobulins, Methotrexate, Methylprednisolone, Octreotide, Oxpentifylline, Tacrolimus (FK506), Thalidomide, Zolimomabaritox, or the calcineurin inhibitors (protein phosphatase 2B inhibitors), in particular Cyclosporin.

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27. A method for of treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition responsive to modulation of SK_{Ca} and/or IK_{Ca} channels, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1-21.

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